

Wisconsin Pathways to Independence

Profiles

Tommy G. Thompson
Governor



State of Wisconsin

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND FAMILY SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Ken Adell



After an accident that left him paralyzed, Mr. Adell went back to school for more skills and a graduate degree. He found employment maintaining Internet sites, operating a toll-free phone service, and serving as a team leader. Technological aids and an enlightened employer allow him to do a considerable amount of his work from home.



Just as Mr. Adell was able to eliminate his reliance on a ventilator to breathe, he also eliminated his dependence on disability payments from Social Security. He contributes about half of his income to taxes and to the cost of his health care.

A key provision of federal Medicare law allows Mr. Adell to retain health coverage for a limited time. Private health coverage is not available from his employer. But in 14 months his Medicare coverage will expire as a result of having employment earnings which exceed \$500 per month. Because he needs health care in order to live, Mr. Adell does not see a possibility for continuing to work if his Medicare coverage will end.



The employment and health care picture is even more complicated for Mr. Adell. If his Medicare coverage ends, he will lose his "disability status" under federal law. This will make him ineligible to qualify for the Medicaid coverage that would enable him to continue working in the absence of Medicare. Catch 22.

Mr. Adell has been working with *Wisconsin Pathways to Independence* to sort out his own options and also create new possibilities for others like him who have not yet been as successful in their vocational goals. Fortunately, both federal and state governments appear to be listening, and new options are being proposed.

Top: Mr. Adell uses a microphone to "speak" to his computer. He can write letters, edit text, and create web pages.

Middle: Mr. Adell shown in front of the Department of Rehabilitation Psychology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he studied.

Bottom: Mr. Adell works from home, where he can write up team notes, create web pages, answer and make telephone calls, and do other work-related tasks.

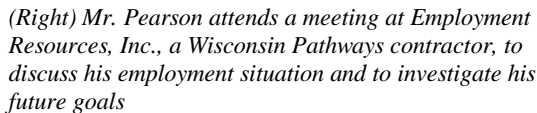
Mr. Hulburt is a valued member of the *Pathways* Advisory Council and also serves on the Client Advisory Committee for AIDS Network, a Madison based AIDS Service Organization. New drugs and excellent medical care have helped stabilize Mr. Hulburt's health. This has enabled him to begin exploring various return-to-work strategies.

A man with a mustache, wearing a white shirt, is sitting on a red couch and smiling. He is looking slightly to the right. In the background, there is a wooden shelf with various items, including bottles and a vase with yellow flowers.



Mike Reece

Since being in an auto accident when he was six years old, Mr. Pearson has relied on a ventilator to breathe for him. His youthful resiliency allowed him to compensate for losing the ability to talk or to write. At age 7, he taught himself Morse code. By using Morse code and “puff and sip” technology, he finished high school and later taught himself computer programming. Employment Resources, Inc. (a *Wisconsin Pathways* contractor) connected him with an employer, and the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation provided additional computer training.



Mr. Pearson receives training in designing web pages.

Mr. Pearson currently designs and maintains web pages for Madison Newspapers Inc. Old technologies (Morse code, puff and sip) have joined with the new cybernetic technologies to help create a vocational future.

Mr. Pearson relies on health and long term care coverage available through the state's Medicaid program. Because private health insurance does not pay for personal care or other long term care services, Medicaid is Mr. Pearson's lifeline.

(Left) Mr. Pearson, shown at work.



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